#### FORCEPS SEWED UP IN DR. I. B. WASHBURN'S BODY AND CARRIED TWO YEARS

Indiana Physician a Victim of One of the Most Remarkable Surgical Blunders Known.

AT VALPARAISO

After an Operation Had Been Performed to Relieve Pains in His Side.

FORCEPS FOUND

About Six Inches Long and Had Been Left Near the Liver During a Previous Operation.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal. CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 12,-Dr. I. B. Washburn, who had practiced medicine at Rensselaer, Ind., for over forty years and was one of the most widely known practitioners in northern Indiana, died in Valparaiso on Friday at a private hospital conducted by Dr. David J. Loring, formerly a professor in the Chicago College of Physicians and

Dr. Washburn was seventy years of age and the cause of his death is one of the most remarkable known to medical science. For the past two years he has carried in his body a pair of heavy steel artery forceps which were accidentally left in his body during an operation which he underwent two years ago in the Presbyterian Hospital

It was the second time in his life that the aged doctor had been operated upon and ation two years before that Dr. Washburn was placed on the operating table is the Presbyterian Hospital in Chicago. During the progress of the operation a pair of heavy artery forceps about six inches long were used in the side just between the lung and the liver. For some reason Dr. Christian Fenger, assistant to the consulting surgeon at the hospital, forgot the instruments and they were sewed up in Dr. Washburn's body. Since that time the aged physician complained of terrible pains in his side and sought relief of all kinds, but it was unavailing.

AMAZING DISCOVERY. Last Wednesday Dr. Washburn came to Hammond from Rensselaer to attend the annual meeting of the Kankakee Valley Medical Society. He read a paper before the convention and, after finishing, com plained of pains in his side. He spoke of his suffering to Dr. Loring, who is president of the society, and the latter attempted to diagnose the unusual case. The Valparaiso doctor induced Dr. Washburn, at the adjournment of the meeting, to go with him to Valparaiso, and, with the consent of the aged doctor's son, Dr. I. Washburn, jr., of Rensselaer, he was again put on the operating table in the Loring Private Hospital. Dr. Loring himself conducted the operation, and was amazed to discover penetrating the liver a pair of forceps unusually black and heavy with rust. The shock was too much for Dr. Washburn, and he died on Friday.

The aged physician was organizer of the Kankakee Valley Medical Association. Two of his sons are physicians in Rensselaer and Goodland, Ind., and his daughter, Miss

Mary Washburn, lives in this city. Dr. Washburn, of Rensselaer, said to-day, as he accompanied the remains of his father from Valparaiso to this city, that the negligence of the Presbyterian Hospital doctors undoubtedly caused his father's death. LATE DR. FENGER BLAMED.

The records of the Presbyterian Hospital show that Dr. Washburn was a patient in that institution on two different occasions. The last time was Jan. 2, 1902, when he was admitted for treatment by Dr. Nicholas away from the city about that date and was unable to attend Dr. Washburn. The formed by the late Dr. Christian Fenger. The circumstances of the operation are not recalled by the hospital attendants.

"My father knows nothing of the case," from a son of Dr. Washburn that his father was in the hospital at the time, but he was not Dr. Senn's patient. Dr. Senn never saw the man."

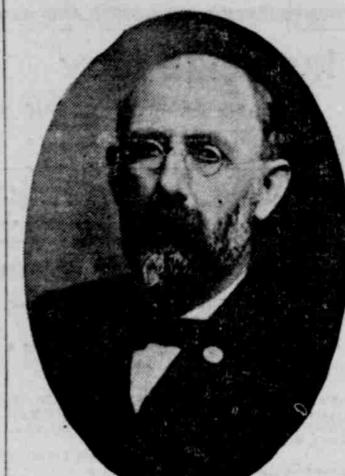
Dr. Karl Doepfner, who was a clerical assistant of Dr. Fenger during the winter of 1901-2, says that the second time Dr. Washburn came to the hospital for treatment was in January, 1902. He was operated on by Dr. Fenger Feb. 7 and the doctors found "an obliterating inflammation of the bile ducts, for which nothing could be done. Dr. Washburn left the hospital on the 28th

of February in an unimproved condition." Dr. Doepfner stated that the instrument found must have been left in the body at one of the two operations, but he says that as the doctor was suffering from a trouble that no operation could improve there was no proof that it was the presence of the instrument that caused his death.

Dr. John Irwin was the interne who attended the second operation. He has gone West and his whereabouts are unknown. Dr. Wiley, the interne at the first operation by Dr. Fenger on May 7, 1900, is also in the West somewhere.

#### BRIEF SKETCH OF THE DOCTOR'S LONG CAREER

Israel B. Washburn was born in Cass county, Indiana, on Jan. 9, 1838. He received his early education in the schools of his Franklin College, where he took a scientific He taught school in Fulton and ervice. He was mustered out as regithe war he practiced medicine in Pulaski county till 1873. In 1870 he was elected to he Legislature from Pulaski, Jasper and Newton counties and served one term. From 1873 to 1877 he was in the drug busiess in Logansport, and in the latter year e removed to Rensselaer, where he lived ill his death. He was county physician of Jasper county for many years. He was a Republican, a member of the Christian Church and of a number of medical societies. In 1864 he married Mattie Moore, daughter of a merchant of Royal Center. They had six children, of whom four sur-



WILLIAM W. WOOLLEN.

#### BEAUTY OF THE CITY WILL BE ENHANCED

Enthusiastic Citizens Set in Motion Indianapolis Civic Improvement 'Association.

OUTLINED

at the Commercial Club and set in motion a men will respond without a moment's delay movement that may result in far reaching good for the city of Indianapolis and culture and happiness of its people.

of the Commercial Club about two dozen weil-known citizens met and formed the Indianapolis Civic Improvement Association, which has as the object of its formait was to undo the work of the former oper- | tion the planting and care of trees, shruos and vines; the promotion of cleanliness and beauty in yards, lawns and public thoroughfares and in numberless ways the general beautification of the city. William Watson Woollen was elected president of the the murderer to speedy trial and justice. new organization and Lewis Hoover, who is also secretary of the Commercial Club, was made its secretary and treasurer.

Those present at yesterday's meeting represented the First, Second, Third, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth. Twelfth and Fifteenth wards. The plan of organization of the society contemplates an executive committee to aid the president and secretary in the administration of the society's work, composed of one member from each ward. These were not selected yesterday, but are to be chosen by the president before the next meeting, which is to be held next Saturday at 4 p. m. In addition to the central or parent organization, an effort will made to organize each ward in identically the same way and eventually each precinct in the city, in an effort to individualize and localize the work of the association. Every citizen of Indianapolis is invited to become a member of the society.

PLAN OF THE WORK. "The work of the new association," said Secretary Hoover last evening, "will be done through the Commercial Club and in co-operation with it. The park committee of the club has been interested in this work for some time, and made an effort at accomplishing some good last spring. At that time we distributed about 3,000 packages of seeds to school children in six of the city schools, and the results accomplished were

"Organizations similar to the one we pro-

pose to put into operation have accom-plished a great deal of good in other cities, notably in Minneapolis, St. Louis and other places. Here in Indianapolis we want everyple that a little time and a very little money spent on lawns is a good investment. With the Commercial Club to back us, we can accomplish a great deal more good than we could do in an entirely independent way. pect to show in the schools and perhaps n some of the churches stereopticon views of beautifying yards and lawns. We have about fifty slides with Indianapolis pictures on them, and a few others giving views of lawns and flower gardens in Dayton, O. In a number of talks made at yesterday's meeting the point was emphasized that the scope of the new association and the good that may be accomplished by it are greater number of cities similar societies have extended their work to a supervision of public illdings, bridges, statuary, municipal art, the enforcement of laws dealing with interests allied to their own, and other things of equal import. The prediction was made that the Indianapolis association will, in time, assume proportions that will make it

The members of the park committee of the Commercial Club, which is responsible for the organization of the new association. said Dr. E. J. Senn, this evening. "I knew are C. A. Kenyon, chairman; Judge Henry C. Allen, W. W. Woollen, A. F. Potts, Hugh McK. Landon, R. O. Hawkins and C. C.

nicipal advancement and the promotion

# IN SERIOUS MISHAP

Thrown Against Rail of Brooklyn Bridge, Cutting Artery in His Temple in Auto Accident.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12 .- N. C. Goodwin, Special to the Indianapolis Journal. the comedian, narrowly escaped death in an automobile accident on the Brooklyn bridge. He was thrown from the machine. back into the roadway. An artery in his temple was severed, and only his presence of mind in throwing one arm out saved

Mr. Goodwin was on his way to a Brooklyn theater for the evening performance in an automobile brougham which had almost reached the Brooklyn tower, when it became erratic. He heard something crack. and suddenly the machine crashed into the side of the roadway and the actor was sent flying upward and out of the open

side of the iron bridge, and though almost stonned he saved himself from going over. The chauffeur was knocked from his seat Cass counties, and completed his medical and lay still in the road, while many people work in Chicago and was graduated from jumped from passing trolley cars and ran Rush Medical College. Nine months after to the Brooklyn end of the bridge, blood streaming from the wounds in his head. the Forty-sixth Indiana Infantry, and two An ambulance surgeon, hurriedly summenths later was detailed to field hospital moned, stanched the flow and sewed up moned, stanched the flow and sewed up the cut over the temple. Mr. Goodwin was mental surgeon in December of 1864. After able to proceed to the theater and proceed with the second act of his play. It was found later that a break in the running gear had caused the trouble with the automobile. The chauffeur was cut seriously in the hand.

Woman Acquitted of Murder.

MOUNT HOLLY, N. J., Dec. 12.-Mrs. Sarah A. Beatty, who was charged with the murder of her husband, Samuel Beatty, on July 6, last, was acquitted to-day. Mrs. Beatty claimed she killed her husband in self-defease. The jury was out eighteen

#### MOB MAY TRY TO LYNCH THE ASSASSIN OF MISS ELIZABETH GILLESPIE

Five Hundred Country People Ready to Avenge Her Death When Murderer Is Known.

DOWNEY ALERT IUDGE

Will Assist Good Citizens in Averting Mob Violence and Convicting the Guilty.

NEW THEORY ADVANCED

Woman Alleged to Have Incited the Murder-Officials Now Think There Was a Plot.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal. RISING SUN, Ind., Dec. 12.-Unless the authorities are alert lynching may follow arrest of the person charged with the murder of Miss Elizabeth Gillespie. It developed here to-day that the people living in the country near the city are much worked up over the tragedy, and it is believed an organization is being formed for the purpose of wreaking summary justice on the person or persons who may be indicted for the murder. - One prominent farmer said to-day that whenever it becomes known to a certainty who the assassin is five hundred and avenge Miss Gillespie's death. This is the feeling that is being developed. The At the invitation of the park committee people are aroused, and say the assassin cannot remain alive in this section. Yet there are hundreds of good citizens who abhor mob rule and say the law shall take its course in this case. Judge Downey is alert, and has said to many that the entire machinery of the court will be exerted to the utmost to vindicate the law and bring

A WOMAN IN THE CASE. The efforts of sensational correspondents to introduce hypnotism into the tragedy is regarded here as ludicrous. The killing of Elizabeth Gillespie was a plain case of assassination for revenge. It is stated, however, that a woman connected with the Gillespie family, who was said to be a bitter enemy of Elizabeth, did exercise some kind of influence over certain persons and one especiall whose name is constantly mentioned as the guilty party. To what extent the evidence points in this direction is not known positively. It is known, however, that this woman for some time past has been on very friendly terms with cerit has been remarked that she exerted a wonderful influence over them, but not of a hypnotic nature. The theory of the officials now is that a plot was formed to put Elizabeth Gillespie out of the way, and that, instead of one person being indicted, it is expected others may be called upon to answer as accessories before the

Little by little the tangled clew is being unraveled, and it is understood today that one of the shrewdest of the two persons. It is said by one who is recovery. in a position to know that the evidence that this detective has unearthed is sufficient to convict but that, as ordered by the judge of the Circuit Court, the author-

DEAD SISTER IGNORED. Dr. William Gillespie, who was again befamily relations between Elizabeth and himself and his brother James and his sisnot on account of property matters, and (CONTINUED ON PAGE 9, COL. 2.)

#### BANKERS SECURE BOND AFTER SOME TROUBLE

Elkhart Men Will Be Given Hearing on Monday on Charge of Fraud Under Banking Laws.

CHAUFFEUR ALSO HURT HELD IN \$5,000

> L. Brodrick and Cashier Wilson L. Collins, to determine whether they shall be bound laws to defraud depositors of their bank. County Commissioner John W. Fieldhouse, been arranged with to furnish the bonds, but just before the defendants, accompanied by the deputy United States mar-

BANKER ELLISON IS ARRESTED AT LAGRANGE

shal and their attorney left for Goshen, he

withdrew his offer, and an hour was lost in

securing another bondsman in the person of

Special to the Indianapolis Journal. FORT WAYNE, Ind., Dec. 12 .- The news reached here to-day that Rollin Ellison, of Lagrange, was quietly arrested last evening at his home on two warrants issued by authority of the grand jury. He went at and Topeka were insolvent.



Knows It's Coming but Can't Avoid It. CITIZEN:-"We used to play a game like this at school, but this is the real thing."

#### TOM L. JOHNSON HURRIES TO BEDSIDE OF BROTHER

Indianapolis on Account of Serious Illness.

WIFE MAY BE TOO LATE MERCURY'S QUICK DROP

tain members of the Gillespie family, and Former Indianapolis Man Hovers Between Life and Death at St. Vincent's.

Mayor Thomas L. Johnson, of Cleveland in the city and spent the greater part of last night at the bedside of his brother, Wilam Johnson, of Detroit, who lies in a critical condition, suffering from hemorrhages of the stomach at St. Vincent's Hospital. Late last night it was said at the hospital that Johnson's condition is extremely grave. Pinkerton detective force is here quietly Dr. O. G. Pfaff, who is attending the strick-

William L. Johnson came to Indianapolis a week ago Friday to look after some real estate the family has here. He was in poor health when he came to the city, but until ities are determined to have a chain of about the middle of the week did not comevidence that will carry conviction to any plain much. He met a number of his old court or jury before whom the criminals friends here and spent the most of the time ALL KINDS OF TRAVEL may be charged. It was also stated to-day with Jay Voss, with whom he was intithat private detectives employed by the mately acquainted. He had arranged to go Gillesple family had arrived to work with Mr. Voss to the latter's farm in Hamilon a new theory. One of them interviewed ton county last Wednesday, but the trip Mrs. Johnson, the mother of William John- | was postponed on account of his physical son, a baker, who, in the presence of her condition. Friday evening Mr. Johnson was daughter Laura and others, said that a taken suddenly ill with hemorrhages in his less crippled by a heavy fall of snow. Pacertain woman recently told her that she room at the Claypool and physicians ad- trons of the electric surface cars were the proposed to throw vitriol in the eyes of vised that he be removed to the hospital. Elizabeth. Mrs. Johnson named the woman He was taken to St. Vincent's at once. He and gave details of the alleged conver- grew rapidly worse and has been unconscious the most of the time.

ARRIVAL OF BROTHER. Tom L. Johnson, Cleveland's mayor, and he most powerful factors for mu- | fore the grand jury to-day, issued a card | the brother of the sick man, was apprised to the public, which appeared in the local of his brother's serious illness by wire. paper this morning, in which he said the Mayor Johnson had been in New York for some time and was on his way home Friday when his brother was stricken. Had ter, Mrs. Belle Seward, were strained, but he received the message in time he might have come on to Indianapolis on the train (CONTINUED ON PAGE 9, COL. 4.)

## BLINDING SNOW STORM CAUSES BAD ACCIDENT

Railway Results in Injury to Six Persons.

EACH BRAKES FAIL TO WORK

GOSHEN, Ind., Dec. 12.-President Justus | jured, one or two seriously, while many | The Chicago & Alton issued orders to-night others were considerably shaken up in a to move only stock or perishable freight, of the defunct Indiana National Bank, of rear-end collision on the South Side Ele- and then in light trains. Snow plows were struck against the iron railing and fell Elkhart, who were arrested in that city to- vated Railroad this afternoon. The acci- placed in service to-night by this road for Gay, succeeded shortly before 5 o'clock this dent occurred between Forty-eighth and the first time in ten years, and were kept evening in providing bond of \$5,000 each for Forty-seventh streets and was due to the moving through the night in the hope of their appearance here Monday afternoon at blinding snowstorm which had been raging keeping the line open for passenger traffic. him from probable death in the East river. Edgar L. Zeigler. At that time their pre- all day. The rails were so slippery that All passenger trains are badly delayed, and liminary hearing will be held, with United | the brakes failed to work. The first warn- | are being operated with double-headers. States District Attorney Kealing present, ing of the crash was given by the motorover to the federal grand jury. They are man of the rear train, who, when he saw charged with violating the national banking that a collision was inevitable, jumped Special to the Indianapolis Journal. back into the car and shouted to the paswealthy real-estate man of Elkhart, had sengers, "We're going to strike." His cry alarmed the occupants of the car, who jumped to their feet only to be violently rain, which continued all day. The temthrown to the floor when the crash came. The panic-stricken passengers rushed to the William B. Pratt, a carriage manufacturer | door and sought to escape, but the guard refused to open the gates. After a few moments quiet was restored and the car. which was badly damaged, was switched to a sidetrack.

BRAKEMAN KILLED.

. H. Heaton, Railroader, of This zero weather by daylight. City, Run Down by Engine.

L. H. Heaton, whose home is in Indianonce before Judge Farrall and gave bond of \$2,000 in each case, the bondsmen being his sister, Miss Alice Ellison, his attorney, Otis L. Baliou, and L. M. Rowe. The charge against him is receiving deposits after knowing that the banks in Lagrange Heaton's home is 2606 East Washington ity. Railroad trains were almost invariably street. He is single

## CITY NOW IN GRASP OF BLIZZARD FROM NORTH

Cleveland's Mayor Summoned to Puddles Changed to Snow Drifts Within Two Hours' Time.

Following close on the heels of the wild, tempestuous wind that blew the rain in great sheets down the streets of Indianapolis all day yesterday, the wind that wrenched umbrellas inside out and left the whole population wet, cold and illtempered, came an equally disagreeable, wild and gusty wind that bore with it a blizzard of fine snow. The transformation came at about 6 o'clock last evening and left the streets a sea of slush. The snow continued until after midnight, but at 1 o'clock a lull came.

The temperature dropped steadily from 36 at 7 o'clock yesterday morning until it reached 18 at 1:30, with every prospect of a further drop. The cold wave extends over the greater

IMPEDED AT CHICAGO CHICAGO, Dec. 12 .- To-day, for the first time this winter, transportation facilities on the railroads entering Chicago and on the street-car systems here were more or worst sufferers, it being found almost impossible to make headway owing to the slippery condition of the rails. Teaming handle this business the burden will fall on was also greatly impeded. A severe cold wave is advancing in the rear of the storm. and has already overspread the entire Northwest. The temperature is as low 20 degrees below zero in North Dakota.

St. Paul Reports Two Below Zero. ST. PAUL, Minn., Dec. 12.-The advance gusts of a cold wave reached here from the west about noon to-day. The wind, cutting like a whip lash, brought zero weather, which nipped unprotected noses and ears. At 2 p. m. the mercury went down to 2 degrees below, the record for the season, with a promise from the weather observer of a possible drop to 12 degrees below.

The cold is general in the Northwest. At Bismarck, N. D., the mercury registered 16 degrees below zero, and early to-day at Du-Collision on a Chicago Elevated luth it went five below and is going lower. This kind of weather, it is said, will continue several days.

In Central Illinois.

BLOOMINGTON, Ill., Dec. 12.-The worst olizzard in many years is in progress throughout central Illinois to-night, and CHICAGO, Dec. 12.-Six persons were in- transportation lines are badly hampered.

Snow and Rain at Wabash.

WABASH, Ind., Dec. 12.-The heaviest snowstorm of the season set in here at 7 o'clock this morning, followed by heavy, perature is falling rapidly. Interurban ines are having trouble in moving their

ST. LOUIS. Dec. 12.-Late this afternoon blizzard weather swept over St. Louis, and to-night a heavy wind caused the moderate fall of snow to become almost blinding. The temperature dropped from 49 degrees

at 1 o'clock to-day to 19 degrees at night-

Zero Predicted at St. Louis.

Drop of Forty Degrees. ST. JOSEPH, Mo., Dec. 12.-A drop of 40 degrees in the temperature in twenty hours to-day, following a heavy snow and sleet-

### REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION WILL OPEN AT CHICAGO ON JUNE 21

But Seven Votes Cast for Pittsburg, Which Offered \$100,000 in Cold Cash.

WORK FOR CAPTAIN NEW

Indianapolis Man Put on Arrangements Committee-Vice Presidential Gossip.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal. WASHINGTON, Dec. 12 .- Chicago and June 21 is the place and date for the Republican national convention. The national committee was so unanimous for this arrangement that no other proposition was seriously considered. This was the real work of the committee, but the appearance here of so many Republican leaders of national standing had the effect to produce part of the West, but the Weather Bureau another result of more interest to the party and to the country, namely, the solidifying of Republican sentiment favorable to the nomination of President Roosevelt.

As was expected Perry S. Heath did not resign his place as secretary. No effort was made to force him out of the committhe committee is reorganized immediately Heath will retain the office the actual duties of the office will be performed by Harry S. New, of Indianapolis. As foreshadowed in these dispatches Captain New was placed on a committee which will have charge of the preliminary arrangements for the big gathering of Repubilicans which will assemble in Chicago next June. While a committee was appointed to SECOND-PLACE GOSSIP.

There has been much gossip to-day relawill go to either Indiana or Ohio. The names of five men are prominently menamong national committeemen seems to be Jan. 20." This action is taken, it is befor them in the order named as follows: Fairbanks, Herrick. Durbin. Cannon or Taft. The belief is expressed that neither Cannon nor Taft would accept the place. Herrick would probably prefer to serve out his term as Governor of Ohio. No one here is in a position to speak authoritatively for either Senator Fairbanks or Governor Durbin. The great popularity of Indiana's senior senator among the prominent party leaders has been strikingly shown during the past few days by the large number of men who have called upon him to pay their respects. Pittsburg and St. Louis were rivals of Chicago for the convention. Each city

was well represented in oratory before the committee and each also had cash offers to make. Pittsburg offered \$100,000, Chicago \$75,000 and a hall, and St. Louis \$40,000 and a hall. The vote stood forty-three for Chicago, seven for Pittsburg and one for St Louis. The work of the committee was harmonious throughout. Its open session to-day was attended by many Republican members of the house. Several minor questions were referred to special committees. Included in this list was the representation asked for by Porto Rico, Hawaii and Luzon; the socialistic problem and the politica! rights of the negro. A committee headed by Senator Scott, of West Virginia, was named to make all arrangements for the convention. Senator Hanna dined the co:umittee at the Arlington Hotel this even-The executive session of the committee

occupied an hour and forty minutes. The first business was the question of admitting GEN, REYES CHOSEN delegates to the convention from Porto Rico. The matter was referred to a committee consisting of H. C. Payne, N. B. Scott, J. H. Gallinger, F. E. Murphy and D. W. Mulvane. The committee has power simply to make recommendations to the convention, but can report as to Hawali and Luzon as well. Socialism also is to be investigated by a committee, which also is to take up the question of guaranteeing the rights of the

negro citizens. The committee consists of George R. Sheldon, New York; Myron 1. Herrick, Ohio; J. E. Addicks, Delaware; J. G. Capers, South Carolina; J. W. Lyons, Chairman Hanna designated as a committee to prescribe the manner of electing delegates to the convention from the Dis-

trict of Columbia Senator McComas, Maryland, J. W. Yerkes, Kentucky, and Representative Brownlow, Tennessee A committee to make arrangements for holding the convention was named, consisting of Senator N. B. Scott, of West Virginia, chairman; Chairman Hanna, H. C. Payne, H. S. New, Indiana, and R. B.

#### GEN. J. FRANKLIN BELL MAY COMMAND AN ARMY AGAINST COLOMBIANS

PRICE 5 CENTS.

Hero of Many Campaigns in the Philippines Summoned to Washington.

TROUBLE IS PROBABLE

War Department Believed to Be in Possession of Important News from the Isthmus.

MINISTER TO PANAMA

W. I. Buchanan Named by the President-New Republic to Hold an Election.

LEAVENWORTH, Kan., Dec. 12.-Gen. J.

Franklin Bell, commander at Fort Leavenworth, has received a message calling him to Washington. He started east to-day. Some of the local officers profess to believe that General Bell is to be called into conference over Isthmus of Panama matters. WASHINGTON, Dec. 12 .- The coming of General Beil to Washington, while it has more or less to do with matters connected with the general staff college, is admitted to-night by officers of the general staff to be for the purpose of consulting with the officials regarding a probable campaign against Colombia should that country continue the movement of troops toward the isthmus. It was intimated that matters had reached the point where troops might be necessary to be moved at any time. partment is in possession of information the tenor of which justifies actual preparations for the movement of United States troops toward Panama. Although the fact would not be disclosed, the presumption is

#### W. I. BUCHANAN FIRST

that in the event of troops being sent Gen.

MINISTER TO PANAMA WASHINGTON, Dec. 12 .- The President has selected W. I. Buchanan, of New York, to be the first United States minister to Panama. Mr. Buchanan's selection was brought about by a desire on the part of the President to secure temporarily at least and during the crystallization of the relations between the United States and Panama, the services of a trained and experienced diplomatic representative having special reference to his knowledge of the Latin-American races. By reason of long service as United States minister to Argentine Republie, Mr. Buchanan fills that description in the estimation of the State Department. It is understood that his assumption of duties is not to be permanent, for he sacrificed large business interests to undertake

Regarding it as very desirable that the

early moment the State Department has adopted the unusual course of making out for him a special commission, indepen the duties sion until such time as the United States shall have confirmed his regular nor tion as minister plenipotentiary and envoy extraordinary to Panama. Thus armed Mr Buchanan will take the first steamer from New York for Panama, sailing next Tuesday. He went to Buffalo last evening to ciose up some private business Ohio and represented the State as an agriculturist commissioner at the world's at Chicago. He was appointed by President Cleveland United States minister to Buenos Ayres. His record at that point was so satisfactory that President McKinley continued him at his post for severa years after his accession to office. Buchanan became director general of the Pan-American exposition at Buffalo and since the close of that enterprise he has been engaged in private business. He also has been looking after certain interests of

the St. Louis exposition.

The appointment of Minister Buchanan followed reception of news at the State De-partment that final steps had been taken for the formation of a permanent repr an form of government in Panama. news came in a dispatch from Consul Gen-eral Gudger, dated Panama, to-day, as follows: "Election for a constitutional convenlieved, to meet suggestions from Panama that criticism of the new republic would be largely disarmed and the status of the new treaty improved if the final ratificat could be exchanged by the United States with a permanent and regular form of government on the isthmus. The territory of Panama is so small that, according to the belief here, the elections can be com within a week after the date named—Jan. 4. The convention is expected to follow generally the outlines of the Cuban constitution, which is regarded as the most modern and complete model of such documents. The Navy Department has received a cablegram from Rear Admiral Glass announcing that he is making every effort to run down the various reports regarding Colom-bian expeditions to the isthmus. He has ordered the Mayflower to the mouth of the Atrato river to make a thorough investi-gation, and, if necessary, a reconnoisance of that region also will be made to definitely ascertain whether there are any Cold troops in that section. The Atlanta also has been ordered to patrol the northern coast of the isthmus on the same mission The commanders of both vessels are under instructions to conduct their investigation with all possible dispatch and return to Colon, so that the Navy Department may

The torpedo boats Perry and Paul Jones have been ordered to proceed from the Mare Island (Cal.) navy yard to Panama to augment Admiral Class's fleet. The Paul Jones will be placed in commission at once.

COLOMBIA'S PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.-The Colombian legation to-night received a cablegram from General De Castro, commander-inchief of the Colombian army, dated Port Limon, Costa Rico, to-day, conveying the information that the results of the elections for President held throughout Colombia on Dec. 8, shows a complete triumph for General Reyes. When seen tonight General Reyes would make no statement beyond saying that he expected to remain in the United States for a fortnight

Buchanan's Mission Special. BUFFALO, N. Y., Dec. 12 .- Mr. Buchan-

an, when seen to-day, said: "I have been asked to go to the isthmus on a special Schneider, Nebraska.

President Roosevelt declared to a party of Illinois officials and politicians who called on him to-day that he would take no part, directly or indirectly, in the political contest being waged in that State.

mission for the State Department, which will occupy several weeks, I intend to leave New York on Tuesday, and will doubtless return about Feb. 1. My business relations and affairs are such that it would be out of the question for me